

Fiscal Note

Fiscal Services Division



HF 566 – School Board Elections on City Election Date (LSB1380HV.1)
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Fiscal Note Version – As Amended and Passed by the House

Description

House File 566 relates to political subdivision elections by changing the date of the election of directors of local school districts, community college districts (merged areas), and area education agency boards; providing for the combined administration of regular and special school and city elections; making changes to the administration of elections for political subdivisions located in more than one county; and establishing requirements for ballot arrangement and placement for political subdivision offices. Divisions I and II of the Bill take effect on July 1, 2019 (FY 2020).

Background

- According to the Secretary of State's Office, in the last four school elections, the voter turnout average was 6.5%. The average voter turnout for city elections in that same time frame was 21.3%.
- County auditors bill election costs back to the respective cities and school districts.

Assumptions

- Combining school and city district boundaries will be complicated due to incompatible boundary lines.
- The Secretary of State's Office requires approximately 400 hours at \$100 per hour for specialized Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping work. In addition, the Office will need to purchase an ArcGIS software license at \$1,500.
- Modifications will be required for the statewide voter registration software and poll books for IVoters and Express Voters. One-time programming costs are estimated to be \$110 per hour and approximately 75 hours of programming time are anticipated.
- The impact on cities and schools will vary based on how the current voting precinct boundaries are adjusted.
- When two elections are combined into one, the scope of the combined election will be larger; therefore, the cost savings will vary and may not be realized by every jurisdiction. Cities may realize cost savings because they are already paying for large-scale elections and will now be sharing some of those costs with schools and community colleges. Schools and community colleges may not see as much savings, if any, since they will now be paying for portions of large-scale elections with more precincts, longer hours, and more ballot styles.

Fiscal Impact

The one-time fiscal impact to the Secretary of State's Office for programming and GIS costs is estimated to be \$50,000. The impact of combining voting precincts cannot be determined until the GIS work is completed.

Sources

Secretary of State's Office
Iowa League of Cities
Iowa State Association of Counties
Iowa Association of School Boards
Department of Education

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

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The fiscal note for this Bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.
